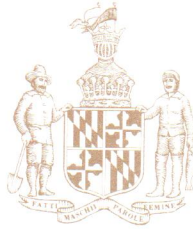


JOHNNY RAY SALLING  
Legislative District 6  
Baltimore County

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Health and Human Services Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2020

SB 908: TRANSPORTATION – RAILROAD GRADE CROSSING OVER PRIVATE ROAD – STOP SIGN

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Thank you for accepting this letter of support for SB 908. Just last year we had another accident at a private railroad crossing on Lake Drive in Rosedale. This has been the 3<sup>rd</sup> accident at this location since 2013. Even more concerning is the fact that since 2016, Maryland has had a \$700,000 safety grant to fund prevention of this issue, but has been mired in bureaucratic red tape, and the funds have remained unspent.

Of the 3 accidents the one in 2013 was between a train and a dump truck which caused a derailment and explosion because of the hazardous materials that were present. Then in 2014 there was another collision with a passenger car which was pushed about a mile down the track. Finally, the most recent one was in September of last year with another collision with a car. Although the persons involved had suffered life-threatening injuries, thankfully I do not think anyone lost their life.

This bill seeks to try to quickly put some protective measures in place by requiring stop signs at every private railroad crossing until the above funding can be spent on more comprehensive safety measures. Railroad crossings on to private land do not seem to have the same standards as public railroad crossings in terms of safety. However, that does not stop the carnage from being the same if a vehicle is hit by a train. That is why I am requesting a favorable report on this bill, so that we can work together in trying to make sure that there are some safety measures in place to hopefully prevent these accidents from happening again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling